# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2531
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
USE OF TRANSGENIC CROPS AND PESTICIDES .
RAMESH CHENNITHALA;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have conducted any scientific tests to check the effects of transgenic crops/plants;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the names of the Indian Scientific Institutes which have conducted these tests;

(c) whether the Government are considering the demand of environmentalists to ban the use of transgenic plants in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any plan to reduce the consumption of pesticides and other chemicals in farming and promote the organic farming in the country; and (g) if so, the details thereof ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir; safety tests include environmental as well as food safety. The Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee(MEC) of the Department of Biotechnology comprising agricultural experts has made on the spot visits of the experimental fields. Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendra Nagar, at its Regional Research Station, Lam, Guntur as well as at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh; Punjab Rao Krishi Vidhyapeeth at Akola; and Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani; in Maharashtra had also conducted studies to assess the environmental impacts. The Industrial Toxicological Research Centre(ITRC), Lucknow and the Sriram Institute, Delhi had carried out food safety evaluation of transgenic crops. From the results it is clear that transgenic crops are safe from environmental and health angle.

(c),(d) &(e) : No, Sir; potential of biotechnology for enhancing crop productivity and for quality improvement of crops has been recognized world over. Therefore, the work on transgenic plants would continue for improving productivity, nutritional and environmental security following biosafety guidelines.

(f) & (g) : The organic farming in our country is being practiced on a minor scale. Government of India is encouraging the Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management approach to control insect pests and make available all sources of plant nutrients by way of applying biofertilizers, organic manure, biopesticides and biocontrol agents to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. As a result of implementation of the Integrated Pests Management (IPM) programme, there is a significant reduction in the consumption of pesticides from 61, 357 metric ton (technical grade) during 1994-95 to 46, 195 metric ton (technical grade) during 1999-2000.